

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions, comprising:
  - creating a shadow copy of a volume;
  - 5 examining the shadow copy to verify an integrity of the volume;
  - reporting on the integrity of the volume based on the examining of the shadow copy of the volume.
- 10 2. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the volume remains on-line while examining the shadow copy to verify an integrity of the volume.
- 15 3. The computer-readable medium of claim 2, wherein the volume is changed while examining the shadow copy to verify an integrity of the volume and wherein verifying the integrity is unaffected by any changes to the volume.
- 20 4. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the volume includes meta-data that comprises entries, wherein at least some of the entries comprise file and directory entries.

5. The computer-readable medium of claim 5, wherein  
examining the shadow copy to verify an integrity of the volume  
comprises searching the meta-data for file entries which no  
directory entry indexes.

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6. The computer-readable medium of claim 5, wherein  
examining the shadow copy to verify an integrity of the volume  
comprises searching the meta-data for directory entries which  
index a file entry wherein the file entry does not index the  
10 directory entry.

7. The computer-readable medium of claim 5, wherein  
examining the shadow copy to verify an integrity of the volume  
comprises searching the meta-data for a directory entry which  
15 is indexed by a file entry, wherein the directory entry does  
not index the file entry.

8. The computer-readable medium of claim 4, wherein at least some of the entries comprise attributes of an object associated with the entry, wherein examining the shadow copy to verify an integrity of the volume comprises examining the 5 at least some of the entries to verify that attributes included in each entry are correct.

9. The computer-readable medium of claim 8, wherein one of the attributes comprises a length of a name of an object 10 associated with the entry including the attribute.

10. The computer-readable medium of claim 4, wherein examining the shadow copy to verify an integrity of the volume comprises searching for unreadable entries in the meta-data.

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11. The computer-readable medium of claim 4, wherein the volume includes meta-data that comprises entries and wherein examining the shadow copy to verify an integrity of the volume comprises searching the entries for unreferenced security 20 descriptors.

12. The computer-readable medium of claim 4, wherein the meta-data indicates a hierarchy of the objects contained on the volume.

5       13. The computer-readable medium of claim 4, wherein the meta-data indicates where objects are stored on the volume.

10      14. The computer-readable medium of claim 4, wherein the meta-data includes a security descriptor that indicates access rights associated with at least one object on the volume.

15      15. The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein the volume comprises a raw volume.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the raw volume lacks a table that identifies objects contained on the volume.

17. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein  
20 the raw volume includes a disk including partition information.

18. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein  
the volume is accessed by a database engine.

19. The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein  
5 examining the shadow copy to verify an integrity of the volume  
comprises the database engine examining the shadow copy.

20. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, further  
comprising making the volume available for access while  
10 examining the shadow copy to verify the integrity of the  
volume.

21. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the  
shadow copy comprises a logical duplicate of the volume at a  
15 selected point in time, wherein the shadow copy maintains data  
found on the volume at the selected point in time as the  
volume changes.

22. The computer-readable medium of claim 1, wherein the  
20 shadow copy is created via at least one of a copy-on-write and  
split mirror.

23. A method for verifying an integrity of a volume,  
comprising:

creating a shadow copy of the volume, the shadow copy  
comprising a logical duplicate of the volume at a given point  
5 in time;

examining the shadow copy to verify an integrity of the  
volume; and

reporting on the integrity of the volume.

10 24. The method of claim 23, wherein the shadow copy is  
created by one of a plurality of shadow copy providers that  
each exist on a system, each shadow copy provider capable of  
providing a shadow copy of the volume upon command.

15 25. The method of claim 23, wherein each shadow copy  
provider is designed to create a shadow copy for a particular  
type of application.

20 26. The method of claim 25, wherein the type of  
application comprises a volume verification application.

27. The method of claim 23, wherein the volume comprises  
a volume formatted in accordance with FAT, NTFS, or UDFS.

28. The method of claim 23, wherein the volume comprises  
5 a volume formatted for UNIX®, LINUX®, OS/2®, or BeOS®.

29. A system for verifying an integrity of a volume,  
comprising:

a shadow copy provider arranged to create a shadow copy  
10 of a volume;

an API arranged to interface with the shadow copy  
provider and to instruct the shadow copy provider to create  
the shadow copy; and

a verify disk component arranged to verify the integrity  
15 of the volume by examining the shadow copy of the volume.

30. The system of claim 29, wherein the shadow copy  
comprises a logical duplicate of the volume at a selected  
point in time.

31. The system of claim 29, wherein the shadow copy is maintained by actions comprising copying each block that changes on the volume to another location before the block changes, wherein a request to read data from the shadow copy 5 for a block that has changed in the volume is satisfied with data from the other location.

32. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions, comprising:

10 creating a shadow copy of a disk;  
examining the shadow copy to verify an integrity of the disk;  
reporting on the integrity of the disk based on the examining of the shadow copy of the disk.